

BUNCO MAN IN ART DEALS.

"MR. GRAY OF LONDON" SEEMS TO BE PAPER COLLAR JOE.

Who began a career of fraud in '74 and has had few equals as a confidence man—George A. Dowden spotted him—He tried J. H. Haggin, too.

Mr. John Gray of the Constitution Club, London, if there be any such gentleman, surely has just cause for a grievance against America just now, through the publication of a story in the New York press, that he is a bunco man. On the other hand, the art dealer and people of wealth and fashion in New York who have been called upon in the past few weeks by the smooth gentleman with English accent, who presents Mr. Gray's card, will be truly sympathetic when they learn who their "Mr. Gray" is—but their sympathy may be for them-



"PAPER COLLAR JOE," BUNCO MAN AND PICTURE SWINDLER.

He is not less than for the real Mr. Gray—if he exists.

THE SUN told on Friday of some of the visits made by the "slick" stranger to art collectors, to whom he said that he had been recommended to the attention of Mr. Kirby of the American Art Association, and that he desired to sell them some choice masterpieces of painting that he had stored with the Bank of New Amsterdam. He explained that he was forced to get rid of the pictures owing to unsuccessful speculation, and he told the people, if they seemed interested, that his secretary would call on them and negotiate the details of the mere matter of "trade."

George A. Dowden of Newark and New York, who has been well known for many years as a buyer of paintings both for himself and for some collectors, said yesterday that he also had been a recipient of the attentions of a man who presents himself as Mr. John Gray of London within the last few days. "Mr. Gray" had written him twice, and invited him to call at his hotel, which he wrote was the Martin House, at Fortieth street and Broadway, and look over some of the pictures he had stored upon the altar of speculation. "Mr. Gray" also mentioned to Mr. Dowden that his secretary would be ready to continue the negotiations.

Mr. Dowden sent inquiries under way and learned, he said last evening, that his correspondent Mr. Gray was none other than the notorious "Paper Collar Joe"—pick-pocket and bunco stealer—who has fleeced men and women in many places since the days of the Philadelphia Centennial, and that his "secretary," who writes the letters for him, is one Billy Wick, who has long been known as a ticket speculator when not otherwise engaged.

Mr. Dowden said that he had been fortunate enough to learn by direct evidence that "Paper Collar Joe" had picked him, as a picture buyer whose name appeared from time to time in the newspapers, as one to turn a trick upon, but having experienced Mr. Dowden was not to be caught with such tricks as "Mr. Gray" made.

It also became known last evening that "Mr. Gray" had called upon J. B. Haggin at his office, making his way easily into Mr. Haggin's presence by his address, his card and his general smoothness. Mr. Haggin also, however, not having given his life as a lamb, was not ready to fall a victim to the proffered treasures. Mr. Haggin was, however, not unmoved by the gibes and assurances of his confidence man. One piece of mischief "Mr. Gray" was enabled to accomplish, apparently, by reason of his being a well known name. Some way obtained one of Mr. Haggin's cards, which he has since shown, but in what way he got it Mr. Haggin says he has not the slightest idea.

Inspector Byrnes in his book "Criminals of America" gives this description of "Paper Collar Joe," otherwise Joseph Bond: "Burly, with a heavy, well-knit body. [Mr. Gray] is described as about 50, with sandy-gray mutton chop whiskers. Born in United States, married; no trace, medium build; height 5 feet 7½ inches; weight about 140 pounds; dark hair, hazel eyes, light complexion; generally wears sandy side whiskers and mutton chop whiskers; looks somewhat like a Jew; a well known bunco man. He formerly hailed from Philadelphia, but is well known in New York and other large cities. He is considered one of the smartest men in the bunco business."

Bond was arrested in Philadelphia during the Centennial, and was sent to the State Prison in Cherry Hill Prison on Aug. 1, 1876, for playing his vocation on a stranger. He has been arrested time and again, but like all men in that line, he has never been punished. He is credited with fleecing a man out of \$5,000 in Pennsylvania in October, 1883, and in 1886 took a trip to Europe.

So he has had plenty of time to develop an English accent, and to be able to pass for the picture of him here printed, he might easily pass for a Britisher by reason of his large features, given by the published descriptions of "Paper Collar Joe" in the points of the bald head, the bald, dark eyes, the mutton chop whiskers—once sandy, now sandy-gray—and the general all round smoothness of manner and speech. The picture here published was taken about nineteen years ago, and the advance in years in "Mr. Gray's" appearance corresponds with the usual changes in a man of Joe Bond's type. Mr. Gray is without a mustache. The accounts given by the press in the revised edition of his book draw attention to the fact that "Paper Collar Joe" frequently shaves off his "mutton chop whiskers."

Perhaps now that, with the cooperation of Mr. Kirby, Mr. Dowden and others, the "slick" stranger has been spotted, the interest in his operations, although Mr. Gray has been spotted, may be somewhat lessened. Mr. Gray has been spotted at 100 Broadway, near the corner of Nassau street, where he has been spotted by Mr. Dowden. Mr. Gray has been spotted by Mr. Dowden. Mr. Gray has been spotted by Mr. Dowden.

scribed as positively brilliant, he was credited with being the originator of the oil painting swindle, through which many uniformed persons were induced to buy pictures made by cheap painters in the employ. The swindler was aided in this game by a superficial knowledge which he possessed of pictures and bric-a-brac, but above all by his lingual facility. As a smooth and plausible talker he has proved himself a shining success, and through his traveling party of the distinguished pianist her son by her first husband, a young man named Gerold. He has been in Chicago for the last two years preparing to become an engineer. This year he gave up his profession to accompany his mother on her travels through the country.

LIVE TOPICS ABOUT TOWN.

Never have the visiting virtuosi been so domestic as this year. In spite of the fact that he comes here for only a brief stay and is to travel much during that time, Felix Weingartner has brought his wife to this country. When he came here last winter the two had been married only a week. Mrs. Weingartner had added this year to the traveling party of the distinguished pianist her son by her first husband, a young man named Gerold. He has been in Chicago for the last two years preparing to become an engineer. This year he gave up his profession to accompany his mother on her travels through the country.

Heinrich Conried has just relieved his singers of one great nuisance to which they are subject and at the same time delivered a crushing disappointment to benevolent ladies who think that singers always have time to sing for nothing. He has forbidden any of his artists to take part in any charitable entertainments at which they receive no compensation. Mr. Conried is perfectly willing to have their services in demand when they are to be paid. But he has made the rule against singing for nothing.

Night workers who ride home on a Third Avenue surface car leaving the Bridge at about 2 o'clock every morning notice that the motorman always opens the front gate at Thirty-fourth street and assists a blind newby in by the front door. The conductor's chance comes at Eighty-seventh street, when he walks through the car, leads the newby through the back door and helps him to alight. The actions of the car crew have their effect on the passengers, for the blind boy immediately finds a seat, no matter how crowded the car.

A peddler of cheap statuary—the kind that is sold on street corners—walked into a broker's office a few days ago and pulled a big cast of the Venus de Milo from his bag.

"This is worth \$1,800," he said in a loud voice, "but I will sell it for \$1,700. Well," as he got no response, "if you won't give my price, make a bid, anyway."

A man in the back of the office called out "Twenty-five cents," and the peddler accepted the bid so quickly that it took everybody's breath away.

"The subway is certainly a blessing in winter," said a thankful Harlemite. "but I guess most people don't realize how fine it is going to be when the good old winter days of summer come again. The subway is going to be so cool, even on the hottest days, that people will ride around in it just for the fun of it. I know what I'm talking about. Those who ride in the tunnel on construction cars on hot days last summer said it was nice and cool underground. The trolley tunnel in Park Avenue was always much cooler than the weather than on the surface, and the subway will be just like it. Wait and see if it isn't."

One of the oldest copartnerships in this country changed slightly in form a week or so ago when the old saldry house of Smith, Worthington & Co., with headquarters in this city, filed papers of incorporation under the laws of Connecticut at Hartford. Changes have been few in the firm. In 111 years it has been in the hands of two generations only.

The records show that the house was established in Hartford "six rods north of the Court House in 1794. The first certificates of the Hartford newspaper of that year contain the announcement of the firm that its business would be conducted "with fidelity and despatch."

His son took hold of the business at the death of the head of the firm. In 1842 the house opened quarters in New York and entered the retail and wholesale trade in commercial houses with such a record as this.

The lobbies of the Broadway hotels are filled these days, not only because many buyers are in town, but because the hoteliers are out of work. A faro dealer whose occupation's gone dare not stay at home lest the neighbors, who think he is a coal dealer, begin to talk. He has to join the ranks of the wheel spinning and card playing. They all stand around and wonder when the lid will be off.

At a matinee the other day two women had seats in the orchestra near the aisle. Just as the curtain rose a young girl entered and took the single seat next them. She brought with her a box of candy and an opera glass, and seemed to have settled herself for a pleasant afternoon. But at the end of the act she got up and left her seat. The women, who made way for her, were surprised after a little while to see a different young woman enter and claim the seat. She also carried a box of candy. The same, apparently, the first had carried.

But at the end of the second act this girl too rose and asked to pass out. The two women in the end seats again exchanged their belongings to let her pass. Before the curtain went up on the third act a third girl presented herself for the seat, and with the same box of candy.

The explanation was obvious when the three girls were seen together after the show. They had bought a \$2 seat and two \$1 seating tickets. Two stood while each in turn enjoyed the luxury of sitting down. Total saving, \$2.

A new and important use has been found for the "sculpture machine," that recently invented variation on the dentist's buzz saw which copies statuary with minute accuracy. It has been found that, with a special tool, it will carve wood, stone, as well as marble or granite. A New York firm is now manufacturing wood replicas of famous bas-reliefs, and wooden censures and pulpits may be on the market in a year or two.

WOMEN'S DEPT.

We are offering for tomorrow (Monday only) 4 New Models of Spring Suits.

Fine Panno Cheviot Suits, collarless jacket, double breasted, corded back and front, neatly trimmed, 13-gore corded blouse skirt, box pleated bottom, black, blue and brown.

Future Price \$25.00.

Future Price \$35.00.

We use only the best of Linings, but at times the best don't last a season. In such cases we relime the garment free of charge.

In our Women's Tailoring Dept. we are prepared to take special orders on advance spring models AT MODERATE PRICES.

B'way @ 13th St.

MR. CROKER SAILS ABOUT MCH. 1

IS STILL TAKING NO HAND IN LOCAL POLITICS.

Since His Retirement He Has Not Interfered. Although Some Van Wyck Officeholders Would Have Liked to Get His Influence to Recover Their Places.

Richard Croker, his friends said yesterday, will sail for England on or about March 1. It is Mr. Croker's purpose before sailing to settle all the business affairs of his son Frank, to whom he was fondly attached and in whose abilities he yesterday expressed the greatest pride.

Mr. Croker spent most of the afternoon with ex-United States Senator Edward Murphy, Jr., of Troy, Andrew Freedman and other old friends. He was alert and erect, and save for an air which expressed the profoundest sorrow for his son, to whom he frequently and touchingly referred, there was little or no difference from the Mr. Croker of former days.

Many people have already importuned Mr. Croker for his views on the political situation in America, New York State, and New York City, but to all Mr. Croker has had a uniform answer—he may say a few words before he returns to England and then again he may not; but certainly he will not at the present time, when the shadow of his son's death is upon him, be induced to speak of such matters.

It is known that several of Mr. Croker's old friends in the Tammany organization have hesitated to interest him in the organization's affairs, but up to this time there has not been the slightest indication on his part of any intention to change the attitude he has assumed since he left New York City nearly three years ago. In those three years Mr. Croker has adhered strictly and consistently to his authorized statement that he was out of politics forever, and that after a career of seventeen years as a leader of Tammany and only two defeats in all that time he was entitled to announce his retirement.

Within the last two years, in order to emphasize this policy on Mr. Croker's part, he has refrained from making any recommendations for office to either Mayor McClellan or Charles F. Murphy or any other of his old friends in the organization, believing that to be the safest and surest way to make it apparent that there was no string to his retirement.

Occasionally some of ex-Mayor Van Wyck's officeholders, who were applicants for reappointment under Mayor McClellan to their former places and who were set aside for new timber, have suggested that Mr. Croker should come to their rescue. This state of affairs recalled a yarn which was told by a man who when he held the office of David B. Hill at Albany to be from the Governor's office. It was told by a man who held the office of David B. Hill at Albany to be from the Governor's office.

Lady Herbert, who has been here with her sons, Sidney and Michael Herbert, for some little time with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. R. T. Wilson, will return to England next month. Mr. and Mrs. Wilson have been surrounded by their entire family of late, Mr. and Mrs. R. T. Wilson, Mr. and Mrs. Gordon Goulet and Mrs. Cornelius Vanderbilt all being here as well as Lady Herbert.

Mr. and Mrs. George W. Vanderbilt are again located at Baltimore, N. C., where they will entertain a series of house parties.

Among those who are booked to sail for Europe on Tuesday are Mr. and Mrs. William K. Vanderbilt, Mr. and Mrs. Rutherford B. Stuyvesant, Mr. and Mrs. Moore and Mr. and Mrs. Ernest G. Fabbri, who sail on the Kaiser Wilhelm der Grosse.

Cards are here from Mrs. John D. Tupper for the marriage of her daughter, Miss Gladys Twining and Arthur Lovering, to take place in St. John's Memorial Chapel, Cambridge, Mass., next Wednesday.

Cards are out here for the wedding of Dr. Joseph Collins of 22 West Thirty-ninth street and Miss Maud Coote Davies, to take place on Tuesday at St. Andrew's Church, Wells street, London. Dr. Collins sailed last week for England. The bridal breakfast will be given at the home of the parents of Miss Davies in Gordor Square, W. C. London. Dr. Collins is a member of the Century, Locomot, Racquet and other clubs.

The second junior cotillion of the winter is for Tuesday night at Sherry's. The cotillion will be danced after the supper, which will be served soon after midnight. The guests will be received by some of the patronesses who give the dances, who are Mrs. Douglas Robinson, Mrs. Hilborne L. Roosevelt, Mrs. W. Enloe Roosevelt, Mrs. Frederick W. Whitridge, Mrs. William Barclay Parsons, Mrs. Arthur M. Dodge, Mrs. James B. Haggin, Mrs. Dallas Baché Pratt, Mrs. Charles Peabody, Mrs. John Borland, Mrs. J. Nelson Borland, Mrs. Waldron P. Brown, Mrs. Stanley W. Dexter, Mrs. Paul Dana, Mrs. Cleveland H. Dodge, Mrs. Joel B. Erhart, Mrs. William E. Glyn.

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Sizes, Designs and Colorings Made to Meet Special Requirements.

Wiltons and Brussels

Two-tone and Solid Color Effects to Match All Prevailing Decorations.

Oriental Rugs

Mounted Animal Skin Rugs

Unsurpassed Collection of Rare Specimens in Many Sizes.

Estimates and Designs Submitted for Interior Decorations.

Special Monday, February 6.

SNOWFLAKE SILK STRIPE CURTAINS (pair) 5.50

Also with MERCERIZED COTTON STRIPE 1.85, 2.50 and 3.00

Arnold, Constable & Co.

Upholstery and Lace Curtains

LACE CURTAINS AND BED SPREADS, in Point Arab, Renaissance, Cluny, Brussels Point, Antique and Irish Point Laces.

Ruffled Novelty Curtains, Embroidered Lace and Muslin Curtains, Cross Stripe Snowflake Curtains, Laces, Motifs and Ornaments in Point Arab and Renaissance for special size Curtains, Panels, Bureau and Pillow Tops.

Window Shades, Slip Covers, Mattresses, Bolsters and Pillows made to order.

Estimates and Designs Submitted for Interior Decorations.

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Broadway & 19th Street.

SALES BY AUCTION.

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PEREMPTORY SALE

C. H. LUENGNE, Auctioneer, will sell at

PUBLIC AUCTION

Monday, February 6,

and following days until sold, the entire magnificent stock of

A. GELLER & CO.,

on the premises at 6 and 8 West 22d St., near 5th Ave.

Appraised at \$150,000

THE STOCK INCLUDES

Fine Table Glassware, Rich American Cut Glass and Engraved Bohemian Glass.

Also Tea, Dinner, Game, Fish, and Salad Sets in Porcelain and China.

Art Pottery and Bric-a-Brac of all kinds.

Marble and Bronze Busts, Figurines and Groups.

Also a fine assortment of Goods Particularly Suitable for Country Homes.

Toilet Sets, Jardinieres and Ornaments for House, Porch and Lawn.

ALL TO BE SOLD WITHOUT RESERVE.

Mornings, 11 to 1. Afternoons, 2:30 to 5.

On the Premises, Nos. 6 and 8 West 22d Street, near 5th Avenue.

HOUSE FOR CROUSE DAUGHTER.

Court Asked to Rescure Famous Infant From a Life in Hotel.

Application is about to be made to the Supreme Court by the New York Security and Trust Company, as trustee, for leave to pay out the necessary amount, probably over \$100,000, to enable Miss Dorothy Edgaria Crouse to purchase a suitable home for herself in this city. Miss Crouse, who has been living with her mother, Mrs. Eula Harista Poulitka, at various hotels here in England and on the Continent for the past ten years, inherited a fortune estimated at over \$2,000,000 from the estate of Edwin Edgar Crouse of Syracuse, who died in November, 1902. Her mother, who was formerly Mrs. Siegfried Kosterlitz, asserted a marriage with Crouse and proved that he was the father of Dorothy. She made a heavy claim on the estate, which was compromised by a settlement giving Dorothy about two-fifths of the Syracuse fortune.

Mrs. Poulitka has no income beyond what she derives as guardian of her child, for whom the New York Security and Trust Company holds over \$1,000,000 in trust. The mother alleges, and the trust company agrees with her, that it is no longer proper that her daughter, who is now 17 years old, should be compelled to board in hotels or apartment houses and asks that a sufficient amount be paid out of the principal, which Miss Crouse will get absolutely in four years, to purchase and furnish a home befitting a person with a fortune of such size.

ASSISTANT TO BRYAN.

Richard L. Metcalf of Omaha to Help Edit the "Commoner."

LINCOLN, Neb., Feb. 4.—Mr. Bryan made the announcement this morning that Richard L. Metcalf, editor of the Omaha World-Herald, would become assistant editor of the "Commoner" on May 1. Mr. Metcalf has written much of the editorial matter for the "Commoner," but will hereafter devote all his time to the "Commoner."

Bryan "learned journalism" under Metcalf in 1885, when the latter was editor of the World, owned by Congressman Hitchcock.

Old Fireside Arm Chair

made of mahogany, with cabriole feet and deep wings that shut out draughts. Fits appropriately into any room; looks and feels refreshingly comfortable.

Our stock, our prices, our service appeal particularly to those who would furnish wisely.

Schmitt Brothers,

40 East 23d Street.

Drink

NEW YORK BOTTLING CO.'S

GLUDIN-BAYNER-SOLEN & BYRNE

High Grade

GINGER ALE and OTHER

Carbonated

THIRST QUENCHERS

EQUAL TO IMPORTED. 40 YEARS' TEST.